

**Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance**

In the Matter of:)	SCDOI Docket # 07-0874
)	
Valerie S. Westrum)	ORDER REVOKING
)	NON-RESIDENT PRODUCER
)	LICENSE
_____)	

This matter comes before the South Carolina Department of Insurance (the Department), upon application of David E. Belton, Esquire, Senior Associate General Counsel for the Department, requesting the revocation of Valerie S. Westrum's (Producer) non-resident producer's license.

After careful review of the evidence presented the Department issues the following decision.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Producer is currently a South Carolina non-resident producer.

In the State of South Carolina, Valerie S. Westrum was convicted on March 20, 1972, of Embezzlement of Bank Funds, at Minneapolis, MN. Valerie Westrum was also convicted of Conversion of Public Money: False Pretenses, on July 29, 2002, at Sioux Falls, SD, her home State.

In the State of South Carolina the producer failed to report these criminal convictions to the Department.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

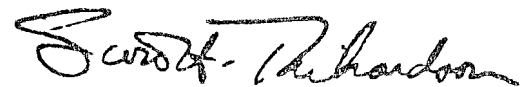
Pursuant to S.C. Code §38-43-130(A)(B): (A): "The director or his designee may place on probation, revoke, or suspend a producer's license after ten days' notice or refuse to issue or reissue a license when it appears that a producer has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, has violated this title or any regulation promulgated by the department, or has willfully deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State." (B): "For purposes of this section, 'convicted' includes a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere, and the record of conviction, or a copy of it, certified by the clerk of court or by the judge in whose court the conviction occurred is conclusive evidence of the conviction." Because Ms. Westrum was found guilty of the crimes of Embezzlement of Bank Funds, and Conversion of Public Money: False Pretenses, which are both crimes of moral turpitude in nature, the Department now moves to revoke her producer's license.

Pursuant to SC Code Section 38-43-247(B): "Within thirty days of the initial pretrial hearing date, a producer shall report to the insurance director any criminal prosecution of the producer taken in any jurisdiction. The report shall include a copy of the initial complaint filed, the order resulting from the hearing, and any other relevant legal documents." As a result of Valerie Westrum's failure to report to the insurance director these criminal convictions, the Department may place on probation, revoke, or suspend her producer's license.

THEREFORE, it is ordered that Valerie S. Westrum's South Carolina non-resident producer license shall be revoked thirty (30) days from the date of this order, and no license issued through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to be issued to her, unless Valerie Westrum requests in writing within said thirty (30) day period a public hearing before the South Carolina Administrative Law Court.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that the National Association of Insurance Commissioners be immediately be notified of this order.

This South Carolina Department of Insurance administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§30-4-10, et seq. (1991 and Supp. 2006). Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the law relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report." S.C. Code Ann. §38-3-110(3) (Supp. 2006).



Scott H. Richardson
Director of Insurance

Dated this 19 day of March 2007